

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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CLEAN WATER BILL COAUTHORED BY OXLEY PASSED OUT OF HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1431, coauthored by State Rep. Dennie Oxley (D-English), passed out of the Indiana House of Representatives this week by a vote of 95 - 0.

The bill will provide funding for the Clean Water Indiana Fund from the cigarette tax fund. One-sixth of the money generated by the tax will be contributed to the Clean Water Indiana Fund, which will amount to approximately \$3.7 million per year.

The Clean Water Indiana Fund is run by the Indiana Division of Soil Conservation. It was started in response to the growing problems of soil erosion, deteriorating water quality and reduced property values that came as a result of these problems.

The goals of the Clean Water Indiana Fund are to reduce water pollution from agricultural and urban stormwater runoff, improve land management in order to have better water quality and sustain productivity, assess the conditions of natural resources and implement programs to ensure their conservation and support local efforts at conservation.

Previously, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources received a full third of the cigarette tax fund's annual revenues. Under House Bill 1431, the DNR will be splitting its funding with the Clean Water Indiana Fund.

"The Clean Water Indiana Fund is a popular program here in Indiana, but a program that sadly has not had the requisite funding," said Oxley. "House Bill 1431 will give the program the financial support necessary so it is no longer merely a good idea, but a good, functioning program."

House Bill 1431 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.